

REMARKS

As a preliminary, Applicant and Applicant's representative thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview which was held on January 25, 2007. Applicant specifies that openings in the panels are optional in some aspects of the invention, as is made clear by the claim structure. Also, Applicants specifies that the panels of the tubular rim were discussed during the interview.

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to be presented with separate paragraphs, and to specify that the several panels of the rim are connected together in an individually and completely detachable manner. Support for the added recitation is found in the original application, and in particular, is immediately apparent from the embodiments as described and shown in the Figures.

Further, new claims 9-18 have been added. Claim 9 corresponds to claim 3 but depends on claim 2. Claim 10 corresponds to claim 2 rewritten in independent form by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 1 before the present amendment. Claims 11-15 correspond to claims 3-6 and 8 but depend on claim 10. Claim 16 corresponds to claim 3 rewritten in independent form by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 1 before the present amendment. Claims 17-20 correspond to claims 4-6 and 8 but depend on claim 16.

Also, claim 5 and the Abstract have been amended to correct typographical errors.

In the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by US 2,337,767 to Paul ("Paul").

Amendment
Serial No. **10/510,982**
Attorney Docket No. **042839**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the panels of the rim are individually and completely removable. In contrast, in any reasonable interpretation of Paul, a feature with a resemblance to a “tubular rim” would be formed of a single piece, and would be at most partially and incompletely detachable through snap fasteners 12. Therefore, present claim 1 is not anticipated by, and not obvious over, Paul.

Further, with respect to claims 9-18, it is submitted that these claims are immediately allowable, as the rejection over Paul did not apply to claims 2 and 3.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

If there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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If this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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